

Appl. No. 09/645,479
Amdt. dated October 13, 2004
Amendment under 37 CFR 1.116 Expedited Procedure
Examining Group

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-28 are pending. Claims 1, 12, 21, 22 and 26 have been amended.

Claims 1-6, 8-10, 12-19, 21-23 and 26-28 were rejected under 35 USC §102(a) as being anticipated by Freivald *et al.*, U.S. Patent No. 5,983,268 (hereinafter "Freivald").

Claims 7, 11, 20 and 24-25 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Freivald in view of Ohashi, U.S. Patent No. 6,408,297.

Freivald is directed to a system and method for detecting and alerting to changes to numerical fields in pre-identified (*i.e.*, registered) web pages. A user identifies one or more web page using each page's URL. The user also identifies numeric data fields in a page. A responder fetches a web page and generates markers for identifying locations of numeric data field(s) identified by the user in that web page. A spreadsheet user-interface is provided that allows the user to set up formulas that specify calculations to be made on the numeric data field(s) from the web page(s). The system periodically re-fetches the same web page(s) and extracts fresh numeric values from the fresh copy of each web page from locations identified by the markers. The results of the user-entered formulas are recalculated using the fresh numeric values, and a change in the numeric data field(s) of the web page(s) that cause a recalculated result to exceed a predetermined condition are signaled to the user.

It is respectfully asserted that Freivald fails to teach or suggest the presently claimed invention. For example, with regard to claim 1, Freivald fails to teach or suggest the limitation of parsing a model page to generate a first string of symbols corresponding to each of the plurality of HTML tags as is now recited therein. It was stated in the Advisory Action that the marker string and numeric string of Freivald are both associated with the HTML tags and are used in a comparison. Thus, it is asserted that Freivald fails to teach or suggest generating symbols corresponding to each of the plurality of HTML tags as is presently claimed. Freivald, to the contrary, teaches a parser 32 that reads characters from a highlighted portion of a source document to determine a numeric data string within that portion. A marker is also stored, for example several characters before or after the identified numeric data string, for use in locating

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the numeric field later. Freivald teaches that a marker may be an HTML tag or text before or after the numeric data field (see, e.g., Freivald at column 6, lines 20-24 and claim 6, line 67 to column 7, line 12). This, however, does not teach or suggest generating symbols corresponding to each of the HTML tags. Rather, this teaches using the actual HTML tags or text from the document. Thus, Freivald is only concerned with identifying a numeric string/data field that is already present in the page. The present invention to the contrary, parses the content of a highlighted portion of a model page and generates a string of symbols corresponding to each of the HTML tags in that portion of the model page. For example, tag elements in the page may be translated to unique numbers or characters. Nowhere does Freivald teach or suggest generating a string of symbols corresponding to HTML tags. Rather, Freivald teaches using a specific HTML tag or text from the page as a marker. Freivald, therefore, does not teach generating a symbol for an HTML tag and using such symbols in a comparison of symbols.

Freivald also fails to teach or suggest the limitations of retrieving a second web page associated with a URL different than the model page, parsing the second page to generate a second string of symbols corresponding to each of the HTML tags of the second page, and comparing the first and second strings as are recited in claim 1. Freivald, to the contrary, teaches detecting changes in the same web page, *i.e.*, changes to a web page at a specific URL. That is, Freivald teaches re-fetching a registered web page, identified by a specific URL, and using specific, marked numeric data fields in preset calculations. Freivald also teaches that multiple web pages may be similarly marked, re-fetched and the numeric data fields used in preset calculations for just that page or in combined calculations where data from multiple pages are used. In the single page calculation case, the numeric values from the same page are used in a preset calculation and no comparison is made of strings of symbols generated for two different pages. In the combined calculation case, Freivald also fails to teach or suggest comparing strings of symbols generated for a model web page and a second web page having a different URL to determine whether portions of the strings are similar as is claimed. Rather, the calculations are preset, and there is no teaching of a comparison. The Examiner has cited to column 9, lines 48 - 50 of Freivald for the proposition that an equal sign "=" indicates comparison. However, upon a

reading of this section, it is clear that the equal sign "=" referred to is used solely as part of a calculation. That is, the equal sign "=", is used solely as an assignment to provide the value for the actual calculation performed, and does not suggest a comparison. Further, Freivald only teaches processing numeric data fields and makes no mention of comparison processing of a string of symbols, such as using a pattern matching algorithm.

Accordingly, it is respectfully asserted that independent claim 1 and all claims depending therefrom, based at least on their dependency, are patentably distinguished over Freivald for at least the above reasons. Independent claims 12, 21 and 22 include similar limitations as presented in claim 1. Applicants therefore also respectfully assert that these claims and all claims depending therefrom are similarly distinguished for at least the above reasons. It is noted that the remaining cited references also fail to teach or suggest the limitations of the independent claims not found in Freivald.

With regard to independent claim 26, for similar reasoning as above, it is respectfully asserted that Freivald fails to teach or suggest the limitations of generating a first string of symbols for a plurality of HTML tags associated with a first area of interest in a model page, wherein each symbol corresponds to one of the plurality of HTML tags in the page, retrieving a second web page associated with a different URL than the model page and generating a second string of symbols for the HTML tags of the second web page, wherein each second symbol corresponds to one of the plurality of HTML tags in the second web page. Further, for similar reasoning as above, Freivald also fails to teach or suggest the limitation of comparing as is recited in claim 26.

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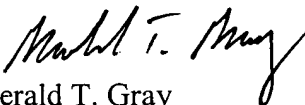
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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance and an action to that end is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 925-472-5000.

Respectfully submitted,


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